

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PRS-01 /090 W

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R 171227Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9743

INFO USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0957

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, ENRG, SU, IZ

SUBJECT: PARTICIPANT DISCUSSES NIMEIRI VISIT TO IRAQ

REF: KHARTOUM 0921

1. MINSTATE JAMAL MUHAMMED AHMED (WHO ACCOMPANIED NIMEIRI ON HIS RECENT IRAQI JJAUNT) TOLD ME APRIL 17 THAT PRESIDENT'S TRIP HAD BEEN MODERATELY SUCCESSFUL. FOR CONVENIENCE, HIS COMMENTS ARE GROUPED UNDER FOLLOWING HEADINGS:

A. ASSESSMENT OF GOI: PRIOR TRIP, AHMED HAD THOUGHT IRAQI LEADERSHIP MIGHT PROVE TO BE WILD-EYED RADICALS. HE WAS ENCOURAGED TO FIND THEM MODERATE, RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE WITH WHO ONE CAN DEAL. IRAQI REGIME IS NOW PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING IRAQ "AND IT'S ABOUT TIME". SUDANESE AND IRAQIS APPARENTLY INDULGED IN MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY OVER THEIR PARALLEL SOLUTIONS SOUTHERN
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SUDAN AND KURDISH PROBLEMS.

(B) GOS/GOI ECONOMIC COOPERATION: CONTRARY REFTEL, IRAQI AGREEMENT FURNISH CRUDE OIL HERE WAS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPAL TO PROVIDE CRUDE TO SUDAN'S PROSPECTIVE EXPORT REFINERY WHICH HAS BEEN ON DRAWING BOARDS FOR SOME TWO YEARS (COMMENT: AND FOR WHICH WE HAD UNDERSTOOD SAUDI CRUDE MIGHT BE AVAILABLE. END COMMENT). IRAQI ECONOMIC DELEGATION WILL VISIT KHARTOUM SOON TO NEGOTIATE DETAILS THIS AND OTHER AID DISCUSSED DURING NIMEIRI VISIT.

(C) SYRO/IRAQI PROBLEM: AHMED SAID SPECULATED MESSAGE RELATED TO CURRENT SYRO/IRAQI DIFFERENCES WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT WEEK'S ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING (AHMED LEAVING APRIL 20 FOR THIS SESSION). IN RESPONSE MY QUESTION, AHMED CONFIRMED THAT SUDANESE DELEGATION HAD DISCUSSED ADVISABILITY PROPOSING TO IRAQIS THAT NIMEIRI PROFFER HIS GOOD OFFICES IN THIS DISPUTE. THEY HAD DECIDED AGAINST DOING SO SINCE MATTER SLATED FOR ARAB LEAGUE FORUM.

2. COMMENT. AHMED WAS OBVIOUSLY ENCOURAGED BY CONTACTS SUDANESE HAD HAD WITH IRAQIS BUT IT APPEARS THAT FIRM IRAQI DOLLAR COMMITMENTS TO ASSIST SUDAN STILL LIE IN FUTURE. AS SO OFTEN IN INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS, PROOF OF THIS PUDDING WILL LIE IN THE EATING. INTERESTINGLY, HE MADE NO REFERENCE TO ANY REQUEST TO NIMEIRI FROM PRESIDENT BAKR FOR GREATER COOPERATION WITH USG AS EARLIER REPORTED BY THAT CONGENITAL OPTIMIST IDRIS (REFTEL).
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